

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-12. (cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A system for screening off an area, comprising a partition element substantially covering a space between two upstanding carrier elements, the partition element being catchable in the carrier elements in an unstable preparatory position in which it preparatory position the partition element lacks the ability is unable to remain unaided by its own force, and from which preparatory position the partition element is movable therefrom to a fixedly locked position in relative to the carrier elements, wherein the partition element includes locking means each with their, each locking means comprising a guide section for interlocking engagement with each a recess in a respective carrier element of the carrier elements, in the fixedly locked position or vice versa, and each with its locking means comprising a snap catch for retaining, on the one hand, the guide section in its position relative to the carrier element and, on the other hand, the partition element in the fixedly locked position in relative to the carrier elements, the snap catch being depressable during insertion of the guide section in the recess and the snap catch being retractable in the locking means by a specially adapted tool, and the snap catch being retractable by an excenter with a vane on rotating the excenter.

14. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the partition element includes two pins which are catchable in a groove in each respective carrier element or vice versa, in the preparatory position.

15. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the groove is undercut and the associated pin displays complementary configuration.

16. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the groove inclines obliquely downwards so that the pins are retained therein in the fixedly locked position in the carrier elements.

17. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the groove is undercut and the associated pin displays complementary configuration.

18. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the depth of the groove is greater than the diameter of the pins, so that these are reliably retained in each respective groove in the fixedly locked position.

19. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the snap catch includes a spring element which is actuatable by an actuator device for releasing the locking means.

20. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the actuator device is disposed substantially inside the locking means.

21. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the actuator device is disposed substantially outside the locking means.

22. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the actuator device is disposed in the carrier element.

23. (Currently Amended) A method ~~in the for mounting and dismounting of a partition element on two upstanding carrier elements, where comprising hooking the partition element is hooked in the carrier elements in a temporary, unstable preparatory position and is thereafter either moved,~~

~~moving the partition element to a stable, mounted position in relative to the carrier elements or is reopened completely, wherein~~

~~locking the partition element is locked in the mounted position when it is pressed beyond the unstable preparatory position by depressing a snap catch on each side of the partition element while moving the partition element to the mounted position so that the snap catch springs out into a locking position for fixedly locking the partition element relative to the carrier elements when in the mounted position, and~~

~~retracting each snap catch by operating an actuator element to permit removal of the partition element from the carrier elements.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 23, wherein an actuator device is activated ~~operated~~ by a special, separate tool ~~for releasing the partition element from the fixedly locked position.~~

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the ~~fixedly locked position is attained by the partition element is locked relative to the carrier elements by being snapped in position in the carrier elements when pressing the partition element is pressed against the carrier elements.~~

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 25, wherein an actuator device is activated by a special, separate tool for releasing the partition element from the fixedly locked position.